

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130431

FOL KUWAIT 2897 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI BAGHDAD
CAIRO DHAHARAN DOHA JIDDA LONDON MANAMA MUSCAT MOSCOW PARIS
SANA TEHRAN USCINCEUR MAY 14, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2897

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MILI

SUBJECT: REPORTED FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR ANTI-TERRORIST
FORCE IN PERSIAN GULF

REF: (A) TEHRAN 4501 (NOTAL), (B) USCINCEUR 101145Z MAY 78
(NOTAL), (C) ABU DHABI 1310 (NOTAL).

1. KUWAIT DAILY AL-SIYASAH OF MAY 10 CARRIES A REPORT
SEEMING TO RELATE RECENT SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER'S TALKS
ON GULF SECURITY IN IRAN AND IRAQ TO AN ALLEGED FRENCH
PROPOSAL, MADE IN MARCH, FOR THE CREATION OF A JOINT
AIRBORNE SECURITY FORCE DESIGNED TO "RESIST TERRORIST
ACTION, INCLUDING PROTECTION OF OIL WELLS IN THE GULF."
THIS STORY ALLEGES THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL WAS MADE FIRST
TO EGYPT, THEN TO SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, AND THAT FRANCE
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ENVISIONS FORMATION OF TWO REGIONAL SECURITY UNITS, ONE
ORGANIZED BY THE EC-9 AND THE OTHER BY MIDDLE EAST
COUNTRIES, INCLUDING IRAQ. THE FRENCH PLAN IS ALLEGED TO HAVE
USG BLESSING.

2. ABOVE REPORT ON FRENCH PROPOSAL DREW OUR ATTENTION
IN CONTEXT OF REPORTS (INCLUDING REF B) OF CURRENT FRENCH

INTEREST IN ORGANIZING BETTER FOR MILITARY JOINT OPERATIONS
IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ALSO, KUWAITI PAPERS OF MAY 7 CARRY
A REPORT ON A PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE IRANIAN MIN/INFO IN
WHICH HE REPORTEDLY ALLUDED TO TALKS "IN THE EARLY STAGES"
AMONG ELEVEN OR TWELVE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION REGARDING
"ANTI-TERRORISM COOPERATION." MOREOVER, EMBASSY ABU
DHABI HAS NOTED OTHER PRESS STORIES ALONG THIS LINE (REF C).

3. COMMENT: IF THERE ARE (OR ARE TO BE) GULF TALKS ON
COOPERATION AGAINST TERRORISM, THIS STRIKES US AS A GOOD
"PEG" FOR FUTURE DEMARCHES ON THE ANTI-HIJACKING
CONVENTIONS, BOTH BY OURSELVES AND BY GULF COUNTRIES
WHICH HAVE RATIFIED THE CONVENTIONS.
SOUTHERLAND UNQUOTE VANCE

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